IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Page 11, amend the paragraph beginning on line 9 to read as follows:

OK to enter 03/10/05

Since the irradiation area of the incident light is equal to or more than the diffraction limit, if there are only patterns of the triangles, light passes through other portions and forms a large amount of background light. To shade this, the whole was covered with, for example, Al, as a metal member 106, and a non-coated area 107, which is not a metal member, is provided at the apexes of the triangles and their vicinity. That is, as shown in FIG. 1B, the metal member 106 forms two opposing triangles with the pointed parts or apexes of the triangles being spaced from one another by the spacing or gap g in the non-coated area 107 where no metal member 106 is disposed. Further, as shown, the width of the triangles decreases monotonically or uniformly in the direction A. On the other hand, as shown, in the direction B, which is orthogonal to the direction A, no pointed part exists. Since the transmittance decreases when the non-coated area 107 becomes smaller than the light wavelength, and when it is smaller than a half-wavelength, it decreases sharply; the non-coated area 107 is set equivalent to this or less. On the other hand, if the non-coated region is set too small, it shades and attenuates the plasmons excited at the apexes of the triangles and their vicinity; therefore, it needs to be set larger than a spread of the near-field light. Here, the non-coated area 107 is specified as an isosceles triangle with one side of 50 nm.